

John L. (Jack) Figel

Education

- 1972-1976** BS Degree in Engineering and Applied Science
University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
- 1997-1999** Graduate Theological Courses, 18 credit hours over 3 years
The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
- 2000-2003** Deacon School, four 2-week intensive summer school courses
Eparchy of Passaic, Passaic, NJ

Religious Ministries

Mr. Jack Figel was born and raised in the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church, originally from Pittsburgh, PA who now lives in Fairfax, VA and is a member of Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church in Annandale, VA. He was ordained Lector/Reader for the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic in 2001.

Washington Theological Consortium

Jack Figel was invited to be a public trustee of the WTC in ~2004 by Fr. John Crossin, then Executive Director. He has been invited back to the board every six years with one year off according to the bylaws. Fifteen years ago he provided the financial support to upgrade the annual WTC Ecumenism Award into the Figel Lecture and has continued that donation ever since. He has also been video recording WTC public events for more than 10 years and editing them for viewing on the WTC website and YouTube channel. He was elected chairman of the board twice and was instrumental in creating the Satellite Membership category and having the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh become a member under this program. After 20 years on the board (3x6 on and 2 off) he proposed that the Orientale Lumen Foundation (see below) becomes an Associate Member whereby he is a non-voting ex-officio member of the board.

Eastern Christian Publications

Mr. Figel is the founder and publisher of Eastern Christian Publications (www.ecpubs.com) since 1993. He has published over 300 books in theology, liturgy, ecumenism, church history, biographies, and child/adult religious education. He was the editor and publisher of **Eastern Churches Journal** (1993-2019) and **Theosis** monthly magazine (2012-2020).

His publishing work also includes providing Sunday bulletin covers with color icons to over 200 Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox parishes across the United States and Canada (www.ecbulletin.com) since 1999 with a current weekly distribution of over 17,000 copies/week.

Since 2012 Mr. Figel distributes a daily email subscription service called the **Byzantine Daily Office** which distributes The Hours, Morning/Evening Prayer and Vespers to hundreds of laity and clergy with common and changeable texts according to the Byzantine Typicon. In January 2018 a smartphone APP for Apple and Android devices was launched called **ECpubs** which includes these prayer services, updated daily, along with other spiritual reflections and content (e.g. icon and troparia of the saint of the day, contributions from Catholic and Orthodox authors.)

Orientale Lumen Foundation

He founded, organizes and chairs the **Orientale Lumen Conferences** which have been held in Washington, DC every year since 1997 (2020 thru 2022 virtual), and in Constantinople (Istanbul),

Birmingham, UK, San Diego, CA and Detroit, MI. Speakers at these conferences have included patriarchs, cardinals, archbishops, metropolitans, bishops and other world-renowned theologians and ecumenists. Topics have included Eastern spirituality, liturgy, the Theotokos, feast days, and numerous issues regarding the ecumenical dialogue between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches. The conferences are open to the public and include lay persons as well as clergy from the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches (www.olfoundation.net). In recent years, the foundation has sponsored several ecumenical pilgrimages to Rome, Constantinople, the Holy Land, and Eastern Europe which have included private audiences with Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. In July 2025 Mr. Figel participated in a Catholic/Orthodox pilgrimage that met Pope Leo and Patriarch Bartholomew where he gave gifts of diptych (2 icons hinged together) of St Leo and St Bartholomew.

The conferences have led to the creation of OLTV – **Oriente Lumen TeleVision** – in 2006, a multi-media form of education and evangelization. Mr. Figel is the founder and Executive Producer of OLTV which has recorded, edited, and produced over 400 hours of programming. Programs include lectures (e.g. Metropolitan Kallistos, Archimandrite Robert Taft, SJ), plenary sessions from OL Conferences, liturgies, pilgrimages, seminary choir concert tours, and special events (most recently the first Ukrainian Catholic Divine Liturgy in Westminster Cathedral, London). Programs are produced on CD and DVD, and also made available through a streaming video website www.oltv.tv and on a dedicated YouTube channel named **OLTelevision** with over 400 videos and 2000 subscribers.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

In January 2025 Mr. Figel was invited to be the Orthodox liaison for the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the USCCB. He is responsible for coordinating the dialogues with the Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Churches. He also compiles and publishes a monthly **News of the East** ebulletin with 1-2 articles in five categories: Ecumenical Dialogue, Holy Land, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox and Eastern Catholic.

For more information about Jack Figel please see a 30-minute documentary created by LOGOS-TV of Slovakia here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otvsDLodzJg>

For a short feature about the icon gift to Pope Leo view the Catholic News Service video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOffwyRmfzY>